**CAITHNESS DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 18th of December 2023 (Zoom)**

**Present**

Chairman: Lord Thurso (LT)

Members: J Mackay(JM), I Cormack(IC), SWD Laird(SL), R Dunbar(RD), M Newton(MN)

Officers: EC McCarthy(EM), A Youngson(AY), M Blackwood (MB),

Observer:

**1.Register of Interests**

Nothing new to register.

**2.Apologies**

A Macauslan (AM), D Mackay(DM)

**3.Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th August were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising not on the Agenda.

**5.Finance and Admin**

1. Clerk activity. The table of correspondence and other activity by the Clerk was duly noted.
2. FMS – NEPS 23 second payment. FMS had asked to delay sending second payment. Board agreed.

**6. Tormsdale**

Sub committee met and agreed a response. Formally Recorded and agreed by full board with JT and SL reconfirming their interests.

**7.Consultant’s Report**

The board received the consultants report and noted the following:

1. Electric fishing surveys – It was note that the general outlook is much better than previous years with more favourable improvements.
2. Temperature Loggers – 2023 was a much better year with the cooler year, everything fish-wise should have done quite well, which will be confirmed once the Temperature Loggers have been downloaded.
3. Saprolegnia -There is a student in place as arranged by FMS.
4. Roach in Wick River – 150 roach were removed over 2 evenings. The roach were a variety in size and ages. AY said it would be interesting to see if/how much it fills back up again. Edna sampling kits were prepared, so samples could be taken.
5. Wick River Smolt Tagging – The consultant asked for an update on the work that had been carried out but had not received this yet.
6. FMS Plan – Second stage of this has been funded and will be finalised by the end of March.

**8.Flow Country Rivers Trust**

The Chairman had technical difficulties and said he could send an email with FCRT updates or hold off until next time.

**9.Bailiff’s Report**

Bailiff said it was a very quiet year and had nothing to report.

**10.Any other business**

Nothing to note.

**11.Meeting dates**

The next meetings of the board are provisionally set as below;

Board Meeting Friday 22nd March 2024

Proprietors meeting followed by board meeting Friday 7th June 2024 2pm (Ulbster)

Public meeting followed by board meeting Wednesday 14th August 2024 2pm (Ulbster)

Board meeting Friday 6th December 2024 (zoom)